

ordinary tools. But where small tough wood is required there is nothing like it. It seems to me excellently adapted for wood engraving.

I must not pass over the occurrence of one little plant, if it were only to warn collectors to avoid it, and that is *Tragia Novæ Hollandiæ*, which like most species of the genus has very annoying stinging properties like the common nettle. I mention this as its stinging has been called in question by Dallachy. It belongs to the *Euphorbiaceæ* and is a twining herb with small leaves not easily noticed until its sting is felt. The species is widely spread and very abundant in the scrubs. With it is associated another Euphorbiaceous plant *Mallotus claoxyloides*, which gives such a peculiar smell to all the forests of the eastern waters, from the endeavour River in North Queensland to the Richmond River in New South Wales. *Mallotus philippinensis* is as abundant and extends to South China. The latter however extends a good distance into the interior and far from forest scrubs.

*Entada scandens* or the large Queensland bean does not come so far south as the Burnett river, nor *Abrus precatorius* with its beautiful scarlet seeds. But in place of them we have a twiner with beautiful blue seeds, *Rhynchosia Cunninghamsi*. This plant only differs from the South American, *R. phaseoloides* in having a large blue instead of a scarlet spot round the hilum. It is often seen twining round *Zanthoxylum brachyacanthum*. I mention with regard to this latter species that it is described as a slender tree, but on the Burnett the trunk is thick and the tree large, being very conspicuous for the stout conical thorns with which it is covered.

---

#### REMARKS ON SOME FLUVIATILE SHELLS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY J. BRAZIER, C.M.Z.S., &c.

A few days ago I received a small parcel of Fluviate Shells from Mr. C. S. Wilkinson, Government Geologist for identifica-

tion, the specimens having been collected by Mr. E. G. Vickery, District Surveyor of the Mining Department; below I append list of species.

1. MELANIA ONCOIDES.

*Melania oncoides*, Tenison-Woods, Proc. Linn. Soc., N. S. W., Vol. III., p. 5, 1878.

*Hab.* Sturts Depôt, Glen River, County Evelyn, also Darling River near Wilcannia (*E. G. Vickery.*) Creeks near Bourke, Darling River (*James Ramsay.*)

Owing to the very dried up state of the rivers and creeks for some monthz past, many of the specimens have become quite denuded of the periostracum; the specimens that have lain in the baked mud and not exposed to the sun's rays retain the periostracum; it is evidently a very common species in the wet season. The type specimens in the Australian Museum are dead.

2. PALUDINA SUBLINEATA.

*Paludina sublineata*, Conrad, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc., Philad., p. 11, 1850, American Journ. Conch., Vol. II., p. 79, pl. 1, fig. 8, 1866.

*Hab.* Darling River, near Wilcannia, Sturt's Depôt, Glen River, County Evelyn (*E. G. Vickery.*) Darling River, Australia (Conrad.)

This species is easily determined by its very fine revolving lines being closely arranged, but so minute as to be invisible without the aid of a lens, very large specimens scarcely show it even with the lens.

Specimens from Sturt's Depôt, Glen River, measure in Alt. 28; breadth, greatest, 22; least 20 mill.; small specimens from same place, Alt. 10; breadth, greatest, 9; least 7 mill. Darling River specimens, largest Alt. 23½; breadth, greatest, 19; least 15 mill; next size specimens, Alt. 16; breadth, greatest 15;

least 12 mill. ; smallest specimens, Alt. 14 ; breadth, greatest 12 ; least 10 mill.

### 3. *PHYSA NEWCOMBI*.

*Physa newcombi*, Adams & Angas, Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 416, 1863 ; Reeve, Conch. Icon., pl. iii., sp. 21.

*Hab.* Sturt's Depôt, Glen River, County of Evelyn, New South Wales (*E. G. Vickery*). Mount Margaret, Central Australia (*F. G. Waterhouse*).

The type specimens were obtained during Stuart's Exploration of Australia in 1861—1862.

### 4. *UNIO NOVÆ HOLLANDIÆ* ?

*Unio Novæ Hollandiæ*, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. p. 57, 1834.

*Hab.* Darling River, New South Wales (*E. G. Vickery*).

What I have before me for identification is three-quarters of a valve of a very thick species bleached perfectly white, scaling off in flakes with the point of a knife and showing nothing but a pearly nacre ; until a few good examples turn up my identification is doubtful.

### 5. *ALASMODON STUARTII*.

*Unio (Alasmodon) stuarti*, Adams and Angas, Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 417, 1863. Reeve, Conch. Icon. pl. 54, sp. 279, 1866. *Anodon Stuarti*, Sowbery in Reeve's Conch. Icon., pl. 34, sp. 136, 1870.

*Hab.* Wittabrinna Creek, Sturt No. 7 River, County Tongowoke, Albert District, New South Wales (*E. G. Vickery*). Lagoons, Mount Margaret, Central Australia (*F. G. Waterhouse*).

### 6. *CORBICULA NEPEANENSIS*.

*Cyclas Nepeanensis*, Lesson, Voy. Coq., Vol, 2, p. 428, pl. 13, fig. 14, 1830.

*Hab*, Darling River near Wilcannia (*E. G. Vickery*). Nepean River (*Lesson*).

This is about one of the commonest Fresh Water bivalves we have, it is found in nearly every river and small stream in New South Wales. One specimen and two valves were obtained by Mr. Vickery.

---

NOTES ON THE ZOOLOGY OF LORD HOWE'S ISLAND.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., CURATOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

The Zoology of Lord Howe's Island has always been looked upon with considerable interest by Naturalists. The fauna blending as it were, types of two distinct Zoological Provinces, the Australian and New Zealand Regions. The attention of some of our early Naturalists was drawn to this Island by finding there, the now extinct "White Gallinule," then called (*Fulica alba*), but which proves to be a species of *Notornis*. This bird appears to have been first mentioned by Callam in 1783 and afterwards in "Philipp's Voyage to Botany Bay," 1789, p. 160, and again under the name of *Gullinula alba*, by White, in his "Voyage to New South Wales," 1790, p. 238. Further notices of this bird will be found in Herr von Pelzeln's Paper, in the "Ibis" 1871, p. 44; where its relation to the genus *Notornis* was first pointed out, a good figure of it also will be found, in the "Ibis," 1873, pl. x.

During the last three years I have made every exertion through the settlers on the island, to ascertain if this bird still exists there, but without effect. On one occasion "Red bills" were reported to me by Capt. Armstrong as having been seen on the hill side, but on my correspondent sending there nothing was heard or seen of them. The only other large land bird known,